

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting
Minutes
08/29/2023

Attending: Tom Murphy (Chair), Julie Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), Chief Randhi Belain, Paul Manning, Chip Vanderhoop, Luke Lefebber, Elise Lebovit, Richard Andre, Bill Lake, Wendy Swolinsky

Call to Order at 5:02 p.m. by Tom Murphy, Chairman

Minutes
(Accepted minutes of August 8, 2023)

Vineyard Power

(Authorized Administrator to sign Agreement with Vineyard Power)

Richard Andre and Luke Lefebber made a presentation to the Board requesting that Vineyard Power be authorized to provide free consulting advice to Town residents on matters concerning energy efficiency programs available through Cape Light Compact and Mass Save Program. Elise Lebovit raised questions about the connection between Vineyard Wind and Vineyard Power. She also said other entities provide this service and she saw no reason for the Town to cooperate with Vineyard Power. Mr. Andre and Mr. Lefebber assured her there was no connection between the two entities. Following much discussion Julie made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Wind Farm Discussion

(No decision)

Elise Lebovit read a statement to the Board that asked many questions about permitting of the Revolution Wind wind farm. After commenting that she had spoken to 60 town residents, 59 of which objected to the development of windfarms she went on to ask a list of questions. Her questions included where the company is in the permitting process; who disposes of worn out/obsolete parts; who cleans up oil leaked when filling propeller gears; who disposes of whales and dolphins; does this go to the Martha's Vineyard commission or conservation commission; can other minerals be mined in leased areas? These were a few of her questions. Bill Lake and Jim Lefebber were very helpful in pointing out her that these leases were implemented by the federal government, not by local regulatory agencies. It was pointed out to her the Town was only involved because of the designation of the face of the cliffs, lighthouse and Vanderhoop Homestead listings as historic places that required "mitigation" from the effects of the development. Elise demanded that the Town somehow object to the developments. Chip Vanderhoop wanted to know the effects the development would have on Carson's Ledge including displacement of whales that are now moving to these waters as a result of climate change. Other discussion involved direct benefits to the Vineyard. Discussion lasted quite a while with the Chairman finally moving to the next item on the agenda.

Resident Goose Infestation Problem at Menemsha Pond

(No decision)

Town Administrator pointed out that Menemsha Pond closures to shell fishing and recently to bathing were, according to his discussions with Shellfish Warden and Board of Health, likely related to bacteria that washes into the Pond from resident population of Canada Geese that have made year-round nests near the pond. Emma Greenbeach was in attendance and suggested that the population may be able to be controlled by a process called adelling that involves coating eggs in nests with vegetable oil and prevents them from hatching. No decision was reached. But the Board did take note of the problem and agreed to seek some kind of resolution.

MV Shellfish Group

(Agreed consider donation)

Emma Green=Beach made an appeal to the Town for funds to improve the replacement for seawater intake at the Hughes Hatchery in Oak Bluffs. Chip Vanderhoop also spoke in favor of making a contribution. It was suggested that Aquinnah consider approving \$10-15,000.00 at the next Town Meeting. Wendy Swolinsky asked why the State had not committed to funding the upgrade. She asked if rent could be withheld in response to State's inaction. Ultimately, Juli moved and Gary seconded a motion to consider a contribution at the next meeting. Board unanimously approved the motion.

American Tower Extension

(Approved signing First Amendment to Agreement and Addendum)

Town Administrator gave Board and update on continued discussions with representatives of American Tower Corporation to improved cell phone network communications. Tom pinto out that a member of our seasonal community was the former head of American Tower and he had been helpful in negotiating an addendum to the First Amendment to the license. Following discussion Juli moved and Gary seconded a motion to authorized Town Administrator to sign documents related to license extension. Vote was unanimous in favor of motion.

Police Contract Negotiations

(Authorized to commence negotiations)

Chief Belain requested that negotiations begin on a new contract for Aquinnah Police. Board authorized Town Administrator to notify Jack Collins of their decision.

Funding Assistant Clerk

(Authorized to proceed with finding the position as necessary)

Administrator informed Board of the need for funding for a assistant clerk position made necessary by staff illness. Board authorized funding as necessary

Donations to Playground
(Board accepted donations)

Board accepted donations from Mitzi Pratt (\$200); Barry & Dorothy Sullivan (\$100); Cia Elkin (\$100); and, Walter & Clara Ricciardi (\$1000) for Park and Rec Playground. Approved without dissent.

Roadshare Signs
(Approved posting of signage for bike/vehicle share)

Juli pointed out that there were no signs in Town warning drivers to give 4' of clearance to cyclists. Chief Belain agreed to speak with Jay Smalley to posts signs.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.